

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are pending; Claim 8 was previously cancelled; and Claims 1-3, 7, and 9 are currently amended. No claims are newly added herewith, and it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

III. SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,300,806 (*Ripple*). Additionally, Claims 7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over *Ripple* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,879,797 (*Principe*).

IV. ARGUMENT

A. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Ripple*. For the reasons discussed below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which Claims 2-6 depend, recites, in part: “a housing installed to project from a surface of the cleaner body and to be in communication with an inlet port of the cleaner body, wherein the housing is formed in a hollow cylinder with opposite open ends” Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figure 3 of the present specification. It is therefore respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Ripple relates to a suction cleaner. *Ripple* describes that a valve chamber 49 is formed on the inside of the cleaner body and a valve member 56 is rotatably mounted to the valve chamber 49. As a result, *Ripple* does not disclose or suggest a configuration in which a housing is a separate element formed in a hollow cylindrical configuration with ends that are open.

Additionally, *Ripple* describes in Figures 4 and 7 that the valve chamber 49 has a closed end. As a result, *Ripple* does not enable assembly of the rotatable knob through an exposed end of the housing. Moreover, the valve member 56 of *Ripple* requires a U-shaped sidewall 58. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the valve member 56 is not in a coaxial configuration (unlike the rotatable knob recited in Claim 1).

Accordingly, as *Ripple* fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 1, from which Claims 2-6 depend, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 patentably distinguish over *Ripple*. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

B. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The outstanding Office Action also rejected Claims 7 and 9-14 as unpatentable over *Ripple* in view of *Principe*. For the reasons discussed below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 has also been amended to recite: “a housing installed to project from a surface of the cleaner body and to be in communication with the inlet port, wherein the housing is formed in a hollow cylinder with opposite open ends” As explained above, *Ripple* does not disclose or suggest these features. Since *Principe* is not relied upon to provide those features identified above as deficient in *Ripple*, *Principe* is not substantively addressed herewith, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the teachings of either of the applied references to support the applied combination. Certainly, the outstanding

Office Action fails to cite to any specific teachings in either reference to support this combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of *Ripple* and *Principe* is nothing more than the result of hindsight reconstruction in view of the teachings of the present specification and is improper.

V. CONCLUSION

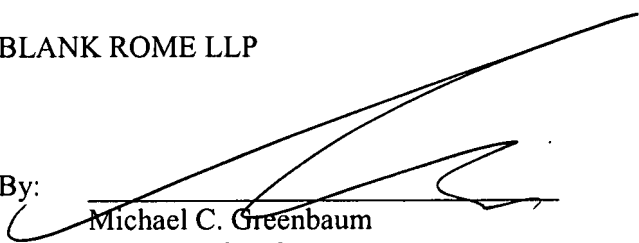
Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (116511-00134). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.36 (a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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